

South Dakota BEE & HONEY

News Release

February 28, 2003

SOUTH DAKOTA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN

SIoux FALLS, February 28, 2003 – South Dakota's 2002 honey production totaled 11.5 million pounds, down 25 percent from last year according to the USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. Dry weather conditions during 2002 were the biggest influence on production, which ranked South Dakota fourth in the nation, following North Dakota, California, and Florida, respectively.

The number of colonies of bees in the state declined 4 percent to 225,000, with honey production per colony decreasing to 51 pounds, 14 pounds lower than the yield in 2001. Over the previous five years, the state has averaged 232,000 colonies producing 90 pounds of honey per colony.

The price received by producers increased 97 percent in 2002, from 71 cents per pound to \$1.40 per pound. The value of production in 2002 increased 48 percent from 2001, to \$16.1 million.

*For more information contact
Carter Anderson or Steve Noyes at
605-330-4235*